

# The Ambassador

The Newsletter of St. Matthias' Episcopal Church  
Minocqua, Wisconsin

*Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, we welcome you.*

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**February 2012**

## From the Rector

As I write this, I am preparing to take a couple weeks of vacation time from January 26 to February 8. Fr. Bill Bippus and I are heading down to Charleston SC, where we hope to have some break from the winter weather (even though to date this year has been rather mild). Charleston is a wonderful city with much rich history, and beautiful old houses and churches. It is a great place to walk, both on the beach and in the city. It is also a wonderful place to eat. Another thing I always enjoy doing on vacation is going to church. I love being able to sit in the pew for a couple of weeks and see how other churches do things. While in Charleston we plan to worship again at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, a very friendly and welcoming congregation. Although it is not the oldest church in Charleston (the congregation was founded in 1823 and the current building dates from 1836), it does have the historical distinction of being the first church in the country not to charge pew rents. And early records indicate that the church was open to all from the beginning, white, black, slave and free, which was very unusual in the South at that time. On the way back we plan to spend a couple of days in Asheville, North Carolina (another favorite city of mine) and go to church at All Souls Cathedral.

Lent begins this year on February 22. Ash Wednesday services that day will be at St.

Matthias' at 12:10 pm and at Ascension Lutheran Church at 7:00 pm. Again this year, during Lent, we will have Evening Prayer on Thursdays at 4:30 p.m., followed by tea or sherry at 5:00 with a look at our church's history, beliefs, worship, mission, and future. Watch for more information about each week's topic and format.

We will also have our annual "Survivor's Dinner" on Saturday, February 18. This pre-lent party started many years ago, when even fewer people stayed around St. Matthias' in the winter. Thus the name. Steaks and chicken cooked on the grill, and other good food, as well as beer and wine, make this event a bargain at \$12 per person. It's also a great time to bring friends or family and introduce them to your St. Matthias friends.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the return of the Providence- St. Mel School Choir on April 27. They will be performing that evening at the Campanile Center. St. Matthias' will again be serving as hosts to the students. We will be asking for volunteers to host the students in homes on the nights of April 26 and 27. Those of you who attended their concert two years ago will remember what an outstanding group of young people they are. This year our local high school choir as well as members of the Conservatory Community Choir will join them on stage for a couple of numbers.

*Father Wallace's Rector Report – continued..*

Those who remember Fr. Bob and Robin Meyers who were part of St. Matthias' a few years ago, will wish to congratulate them on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Feb. 3. Their address is: The Rev & Mrs. Robert B. Meyer, PO Box 184, Tremont, IL, 61568.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL.  
Fr. Edgar Wallace

## **Baby Shower**

Please plan to attend a baby shower for Michael and Emily Tautges during coffee hour on Sunday, February 12 - they are having a boy! On Sundays until the shower, there will be a piggy bank for donations on the table in the parish hall - we plan to help furnish their nursery. Checks can be made out to St. Matthias' with Pastoral Care on the memo line. So... whether you contribute to the piggy bank, bring your own gift and card, or simply come to the shower, let's all show our love and support to a very special couple as we celebrate this most exciting time of their lives.

## **Winter Survivor's Dinner**

After a particularly long, cold winter about 25 years ago, the folks at St. Matthias' were looking for a reason to have a party - someone suggested a Winter Survivor's Party ... so they got out a grill, grilled steaks outside and chilled the wine in the snow banks! The party was a huge success and has become a tradition here at St. Matthias' ever since. It is always held the last Saturday before Lent - this year will be February 18. Beer, wine and appetizers at 5:00 - dinner will be served at 6:00 - salad, your choice of steak or chicken, baked potato, mushrooms, bread and dessert - \$12 per person. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Please come and bring your friends - this is always a fun evening and a great way to introduce others to our St. Matthias' family.

*Submitted by Chris Clark*

## **Food Pantry**

St. Matthias' will help to staff The Pantry on Tuesday, February 28. If you can help, please show up at The Pantry (Hwy.51 - about a mile north of The Plantation) around 8:00 - you'll be done about 11:30.

*Submitted by Chris Clark*

## **Adult Forum**

The Adult Forum continues to educate and enlighten us on a variety of subjects.

**January 29<sup>th</sup>** - Isaiah Brokenleg will present the DVD Lighting the 7th Fire. Discussion will follow.

**February 5<sup>th</sup>** - Roger Ganschow will be presenting Stem Cell Progress and Promise: an update.

**February 12<sup>th</sup>** - Kathy Bates will present Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

**February 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>** - Gordon Hermanson will educate us on the history, building, and uses of a Pipe Organ.

We meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. See you there!

*Submitted by Marcia Wisner-Holt*

## **Lent Madness!**

Just for fun - vote for your favorite saint!

This year, Forward Movement is sponsoring a popular online competition to see which saint will win the coveted Golden Halo. Based on college basketball's March Madness, Lent Madness pits saints against one another each day during Lent. Read about the saints, learn about their lives, be inspired, and laugh.

Featuring "celebrity bloggers" Meredith Gould, Penny Nash, Bosco Peters, Heidi Shott, Adam Thomas, Laura Toepfer, Neil Alan Willard, and Chris Yaw. The "chief coach" is Tim Schenck. Vote early, and vote often.

Starts February 23, the day after Ash Wednesday.  
[www.lentmadness.org](http://www.lentmadness.org)

## St. Francis Project Update

by Laurie Glowac

Thanks to all who so generously gave of themselves and their worldly goods to make sure that Christmas was a little brighter for 89 individuals in our community. You contributed half of the amount needed for our well and the other half will be coming from the tithe money that we receive from Thrift Shop proceeds for Community Outreach. We will be helping a village in Zambia receive the gift of water through a new well and hope to be able to develop some kind of partnership with that village in the future.

One of the missions of the St. Francis Project is to educate our membership on the social justice issues that are important in our community and then to provide both individual and group volunteer opportunities for you to choose if you wish. In keeping with this mission, on January 8th, Isaiah Brokenleg presented "Indian 101" to those gathered for Adult Forum. It was a very educational talk and was followed by a video on Spear Fishing on January 29th. There were requests for a reading list and volunteer opportunities on the reservation, following Isaiah's talk. The reading list is completed and included in this issue. We are working on the Volunteer list and that will be posted on the bulletin board when completed. There is an opportunity to volunteer on Saturday, February 25th at Family Fun Day in Lac du Flambeau. This is a fun outdoor event that needs lots of volunteers to make it a success. Please call Laurie Glowac if you can volunteer between the hours of 10 and 4. (715) 588-1457.

Father Edgar Wallace will be educating us around the issue of the shortage of clean drinking water in the world on March 4th as another effort to educate and provide volunteer opportunities. There is still time to donate to the purchase of the well for a village in Zambia - please note that your donation is for this cause. We are also working on providing some opportunities this summer around the provision of clean water.

If you have any ideas you would like to see the St. Francis Project pursue, please do drop

into one of our meetings on the last Sunday of the month at 11:30 am. We have many exciting projects on our list for 2012.

## Indian 101 Reading List

400 Years: Anglican/Episcopal Mission Among American Indians

Owanah Anderson

That They May Have Life: The Episcopal Church in South Dakota, 1859-1976

Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve

Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto

Vine Deloria, Jr.

God is Red: A Native View of Religion

Vine Deloria, Jr., Leslie Marmon Silko and George E. Tinker

Chippewa Treaty Rights

Ronald Setz

Memories of Lac du Flambeau Elders

Edited by Elizabeth M. Tornes

Black Elk Speaks: Being the Life Story of a Holy Man of the Ogala Sioux

John G. Neihardt

Neither Wolf nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads with an Indian Elder

Kent Nerburn

Lakota Woman

Mary Crow Dog and Richard Erdoes

Keeping Heart on Pine Ridge

Vic Glover

Indian Nations of Wisconsin: Histories of Endurance and Renewal

Patty Loew

## Who's In the Pews



**Michael Tautges**

Michael Tautges, who likes to say his last name rhymes with couches, had a most unusual upbringing. He was born in Appleton, the oldest of four boys, but his family moved 13 times while he was a child. He was home schooled through high school, never having attended a public or private school. His family did not own a TV or have access to the internet, nor did they subscribe to any newspapers. His social interactions came primarily through the churches his family belonged to, which included the Mennonite church in Athens.

His family was very religious and at age 5 he could win at most any bible trivia game, very often beating the adults who were playing. Whenever the family moved to a new town (primarily in northern and central Wisconsin), they would visit all the local churches to select a new one so Michael is quite familiar with many denominations.

Their last move was from Eagle River to Waupaca, when Michael was 14. This placed him in close proximity to his grandparents who had a big influence on him. They did have a TV, the internet and newspapers and his grandfather helped him to make his first investment at age

16 in utility stocks, with money he had earned at an after school job.

In 2002, Michael enrolled at UW-Platteville in the Mechanical Engineering Department, a major his mother thought would use his talents well. He did not care for this major and, after tearing his rotator cuff at his summer warehousing job, he decided to take a break from school to travel in Europe after his sophomore year. He had always loved history and geography and was ready for an adventure. At Platteville, he often befriended the foreign students and when he was in Europe for 3 ½ months, he visited many of those friends there. While in Europe, he traveled in 11 countries, met Tom Cruise, attended mass at St. Peter's with the pope, and went mountain climbing in the UK and in the Alps. One of the most fun things he did was to buy a tricornered hat in Venice. He had no choice but to wear it (wouldn't fit in the backpack) and that hat led to many wonderful encounters with locals in several different countries.

When Michael returned to the US, he enrolled at UW - Stevens Point as a Business major. He had always found math and accounting to be very easy and he had an ambition to own his own business or to go into banking. This major suited him much better than Mechanical Engineering. Although his money ran out before he was able to get his degree, Michael did finish 2 more years of college and enjoyed a foray into politics while he was there. He does intend to get the degree at some time in the future.

Michael remembers vividly the day he first saw his wife, Emily, even though he was only 8 years old and she was 6. They were both living in Eagle River at the time and their families were friends. Emily's family was Mennonites and she was the 7th of 9 children and the first girl. When the two families visited each other once a month, Michael would play with Emily's older brothers but he remembers trying to catch Emily's eye even back then. He continued to see her once a month until his family moved to Waupaca. At that point, he lost track of her and her family.

*Continued on page 5.....*

*Who's In the Pews – cont. from page 4....*

In the Mennonite tradition, Emily would be expected to be betrothed or even married by the age of 18, to a man of her parents' choosing. She had been much on Michael's mind while he was in Europe and he decided that he better find her soon if he were to have a chance to be with her. So, he returned to his old church in Athens - a 130 mile round trip from Waupaca. Unfortunately, Emily was not there. Her family had moved to a different church located in Stratford. Michael still had friends at their old church so he decided to continue the trek in hopes that he would eventually hear from Emily which he did - nine months later - with an invitation to dinner. Of course, he went and it was just a dinner but he got to see Emily for the first time in over 6 years and she was as beautiful as he had remembered her to be.

Four months later, he received another invitation to dinner where he learned that Emily's family was moving to Kentucky. Michael offered to help them move in hopes of seeing more of Emily. It was during the move that the young couple were able to sneak away to have their first ever private conversation and learn that they both wanted the same things for their future. You must understand that in the Mennonite culture, young men and women, boys and girls do not converse with each other than polite hello's. These two were now operating outside the bounds of their upbringing, especially Emily who had been more strictly raised.

It was 3 years later that Michael finally received Emily's father's permission to marry her. They were married three months later on May 31, 2008. Some of the Mennonite relatives did not attend because Michael and Emily had decided that they would share a kiss during the ceremony; nonetheless, 175 celebrated this long awaited event. Michael and Emily were their own wedding planners and have gone on to perform this service for friends.

After the wedding, Michael got his first job in banking in Madison and Emily began work at Golden Harvest in Rhinelander. They had a commuting marriage for about a year and lived in Marshfield before moving to Minocqua last year. Last summer, Michael and Emily

began to visit churches and in late August they found themselves in the pews at St. Matthias. It happened to be the day of the Road Rally and at coffee hour they were invited to be in a car that had room for two more. They accepted and, as we say, the rest was history. We began to see their faces every Sunday.

In October, due to Kit Hermanson's progressing illness, we needed to arrange a temporary replacement for our Church Secretary and Michael needed a job. A match made in heaven! Michael has just recently been offered and accepted the job on a permanent basis.

Our new Church Secretary is a man of many interests and talents. He is an adept sword fighter, a skilled quarterback, and an excellent baseball player. He sings bass in the choir and designed an on-line game while in college. He is a lifelong coin and stamp collector which led to his strong interest in history and geography. He loves to be outside hiking, exploring, canoeing, etc. and leads a trip through the Porcupine Mountains along Lake Superior each year. He is also writing a book of children's stories and is exploring the possibility of opening a wine boutique that would sell red wines from small vineyards in France. The interest cultivated in politics in college continues - Michael is considering an eventual run in local and state politics.

The anticipated arrival of baby Friederick in March is causing much excitement for the Tautges' and much buzz around the St. Matthias community with a baby shower planned for February 12th after church. We are so delighted with Michael and Emily's participation in our church community. They are a wonderful addition and many of us feel that they were heaven sent, special delivery!

*Written by Laurie Glowac*